



Department Updates

May 2019

Health & Human Services

Stacey Frolik, Director

The 2018 unaudited reconciliation for DHHS shows we have a surplus. Due to the nature of the work within the Department, it can be challenging to create a balanced budget. Due to the hard work of all Department staff and key fiscal staff, we were able to do so this past year.

The Department has a few projects and programs we are working on for 2019. The first is the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program. We are collaborating with the Judicial System as a result of a court improvement project Barron County was selected to participate in. The purpose of the project is to create a volunteer network of people who are willing to be trained to be court appointed advocates for children in the Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) system. Once appointed and matched the advocate would meet with the child weekly and be a direct report back to the court regarding how the child is doing and the wishes of the child. The primary intended outcome of this program is to reunify children more quickly with their biological family.

Family Treatment Court is another program we are looking to establish in 2019. We have written for two grants to help us fund the planning and implantation of a Family Treatment Court. This model loosely resembles Adult Drug and Alcohol Court, which puts a larger emphasis on treatment and recovery. Family Treatment Court will take

the family center planning approach to keep families together or reunite them more quickly based on safety issues related to addiction.

The Energy Assistance Program ended May 15, 2019 and the new Energy Assistance season will begin October 1, 2019 for the 2019-2020 heating season.

A Measles Outbreak is still a possibility. Wisconsin has not yet had any measles cases yet however, the number of cases in the United States continues to grow. Measles starts with a fever that can get very high. Some of the other symptoms that may occur are:

- Cough, runny nose, and red eyes
- Rash of tiny, red spots that start at the head and spread to the rest of the body
- Diarrhea
- Ear infection

For some children, measles can lead to:

- Pneumonia
(a serious lung infection)
- Lifelong brain damage
- Deafness
- Death

Contact your primary care physician with questions regarding vaccinations for measles to protect you and your family.

In This Issue:

Health & Human Services	1
ADRC / Aging	2 – 3
Health & Wellness Fair	3
Treasurer	4

ADRC / Aging

Jennifer Jako, Director

The Aging & Disability Resource Center's (ADRC) mission is to empower and support older adults, people with disabilities, and their families - to ask for help to achieve maximum independence and quality of life. ADRC staff serve and support our community in a variety of ways - by linking them with resources and/or providing services. Our customers cover a wide spectrum: older adults and adults with disabilities, their families, friends, caregivers, neighbors, and guardians. We assist physicians, discharge planners, social workers, care managers, and businesses/employers. In addition to linking customers with resources, the ADRC has a wide range of services including: home delivered meals, specialized transportation, senior dining, adult day respite (Daybreak), benefits counseling, evidenced-based healthy aging workshops, caregiver support, and dementia care services. Most of these services have been around for 45 years. We diligently work on outreach, but one of our biggest obstacles remains getting customers to know about us.

Population projections indicate the aging population will continue to expand rapidly over the first half of this century; nearly 40% of Barron County residents will be 60 years old and older by year 2040. This has been termed the "Aging Wave." In addition, the issues of dementia, poverty, disabilities, mental health, social isolation, and lack of affordable housing and transportation will have significant impacts on our communities.

Aging Advocacy Day was held in Madison on May 14, 2019. This was an opportunity for staff, board members and community members to meet with our legislators and advocate for our top priorities which include: expansion of Dementia Care Specialist to all ADRCs, increase funding for specialized transportation, increase Medicaid provider reimbursement to raise direct care worker wages, increase investments to Healthy Aging grants, create a caregiver tax credit, and increase state funding for the Elder Benefits Specialist program. If you are interested in advocating for any of these areas or have any questions, please reach out to me.

Dementia Care remains a top priority for the

ADRC. Our Dementia Care Specialist (DCS) has many unique events and learning opportunities approaching:

- **"What They Had"** This is a free movie event at the Lake 7 Theatre. The movie is a story of the impact Alzheimer's disease has on a family. It will be shown Tuesday, June 4th at 1:30pm. All community members are welcome. Register by May 31st with the ADRC at ext. 6225.
- **"Reelin' in New Memories"** will be held Wednesday, June 19th, at Veteran's Park in Spooner from 11am-1pm. This fishing event is for those with early stage memory loss. Attendees will be paired with a local angler to do some fishing and share fishing memories. Lunch is included. Contact Trisha at ext. 6206 for more information.
- **Memory Screens** – you can get a memory screen at any time. A memory screen provides useful health information about your brain, just like a blood pressure test provides information about your heart. Anyone can get a free, confidential 10-15 minute memory screen, provided by trained and certified ADRC staff. Contact the ADRC to schedule an appointment.
- **Daybreak** – our adult day respite service is available for people with early memory loss. We have a daytime program specifically designed for those with memory loss, giving caregivers a much needed break. Contact Peg Schmidt at ex 6374 for more information.

We also continue to work with local healthcare systems and Emergency Management on potential projects to improve systems for people with dementia.

Transportation is a top unmet need in our county and across the state of Wisconsin and is among the most requested support service for older adults and persons with disabilities. Having transportation programs allows individuals to remain in a community setting and out of expensive institutional care. Thriving communities have strong transportation options.

Transportation coordination provides more rides to more consumers through cooperation, com-

ADRC / Aging (Continued)

munication and sharing resources, ensuring that transportation resources funded by local, state and federal programs are well-managed. Every transportation provider in the county is vital to our rural communities. In Barron County, we partner with Namekagon Transit, City of Rice Lake, and the Centers of Independent Living of Western Wisconsin (CILWW) to help meet transportation needs in our communities. We meet quarterly to discuss ridership, unmet needs and the future vision of our services.

I have included a link for you to read the report put out by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC). Conclusions are that older adults and younger adults with disabilities face significant transportation challenges and the lack of available and affordable transportation options means that many rely on family and friends to get where they need to go, contributing to social isolation and caregiver burden. The ADRC still has work to do as many customers do not recognize any one “go-to” resource for information about transportation in their communities. <http://www.nadtc.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-NADTC-KRC-Polling-report.pdf>

Social Isolation is the lack of sustained meaningful connection to other people. **Loneliness** is the perceived lack of interaction with others. Social isolation goes beyond the temporary feeling of being alone and instead refers to an objective condition that involves quantifiable measurements such as the size of one’s social network, availability of transportation, and ability to access resources and information. Those most at risk are divorced, separated or widowed and those living alone. Loneliness and social isolation have health implications related to increased stress. Studies have shown they are equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. 1 in 5 older adults report being isolated and 1 in 3 older adults report being lonely. Social isolation is a key predictor of depression and anxiety and may accelerate heart disease. Some reasons for increased isolation and loneliness include: declining participation in organized social activities and religious organizations, social media and cell phones that suck up people’s attention, and sagging marriage rates with increasing numbers of people living

alone. The ADRC recognizes social isolation and loneliness as top concerns in our community. We encourage people to prepare for retirement socially as well as financially – expand your circles! We encourage people to get engaged in their communities in whatever interests them. The ADRC is also looking at ways we can make an impact to address these issues. Here is an interesting TED Talk related to loneliness: “Pack Health” by Will Wright.

Health Promotions: Peg Schmidt continues to coordinate evidenced-based Healthy Aging workshops in our three county ADRC region. In 2019, we are scheduled to complete 19 workshops. The workshops we offer aim at decreasing risks of falling, improving diabetes or other chronic condition self-management, and taking care of yourself as a caregiver. We were successfully awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Institute of Healthy Aging to expand our Healthy Living with Diabetes workshops. As the recent Public Health Community Health Needs Assessment indicates, diabetes is a top health concern in our community. One of the proven ways to improve diabetes self-management is community based education. Our evidenced-based workshops are weekly 2 ½ hour classes for 6 weeks. The new grant will allow us to build on relationships with local healthcare agencies to increase referral systems and help recruit and get facilitators trained. We encourage you or anyone you know that would benefit from one of our Healthy Aging workshops to contact the ADRC. These workshops can change your life, just call Peg with any questions.

Throughout 2019, we will continue our work and mission to help older adults, persons with disabilities, and their families to meet their goals. If you or anyone you know needs any information about our services or events, please call or email staff, check out our website at adrcconnections.org, or like us on Facebook.

Treasurer

Vonnie Ritchie, Treasurer

The spreadsheet below shows a comparison of taxes for the past five years. The unpaid taxes as of February are collected by our office for all municipalities except for the City of Rice Lake. We have been collecting the 1st installment taxes for the Town of Almena for the past few years. You may have noticed on your tax bill that the State did not levy any taxes the past two years. The unpaid percentage (28.73%) on the 2018 tax was higher on January 31, 2019 then it was in 2018. I believe this was due to the income tax change for the 2018 tax year and more people paid the 2017 taxes in 2017 to take advantage of the credit. See comparison below:

FIVE YEAR TAX ROLL COMPARISON

Tax Year/Year Due	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
State Tax	633,245.94	653,570.47	673,355.02	0.00	0.00
County Tax	19,174,143.00	19,569,260.00	20,210,095.00	20,916,813.00	21,315,394.00
Muni Tax	18,035,528.55	19,177,352.29	19,354,677.31	19,950,895.54	20,980,904.05
Special Districts	378,304.47	372,523.03	376,312.04	371,818.11	478,296.92
Schools	39,799,787.19	39,673,623.86	40,570,908.19	42,771,907.44	44,540,218.44
WITC	1,325,538.13	1,411,339.24	1,473,719.75	1,530,049.90	1,601,112.45
Total Levied Taxes	79,346,547.28	80,857,668.89	82,659,067.31	85,541,483.99	88,915,925.86
Omitted/70.43 Corrections	6,418.16	-55,657.07	19,257.30	1,504.70	2,919.89
Special Ass/Charges/DU	895,424.18	652,154.78	663,757.44	795,858.10	789,312.48
MFL	153,203.25	160,684.03	172,902.00	186,365.79	190,347.46
Total Tax Roll	80,401,592.87	81,614,850.63	83,514,984.05	86,525,212.58	89,898,505.69
Credits paid by State:					
Lottery Credits	1,611,262.64	1,496,068.39	1,777,606.00	1,726,575.92	2,469,994.73
First Dollar Credits	1,622,794.52	1,568,524.05	1,602,265.22	1,670,700.49	1,718,418.68
State Credits	5,725,788.99	6,735,285.80	6,887,837.29	7,782,872.18	7,823,643.72
Due After Credits	71,441,746.72	71,814,972.39	73,247,275.54	75,345,063.99	77,886,448.56
Taxes paid to Muni's	50,192,565.50	49,274,098.72	52,689,845.81	56,178,498.35	55,510,671.95
% paid by January 31st	70.26%	68.61%	71.93%	74.56%	71.27%
Balance Due Feb	21,249,181.22	22,540,873.67	20,557,429.73	19,166,565.64	22,375,776.61
% unpaid February 1st	29.74%	31.39%	28.07%	25.44%	28.73%
Unpaid Dec 31 year due	645,349.66	812,381.90	582,283.00	538,373.96	
% unpaid 12/31 year due	0.90%	1.13%	0.79%	0.71%	
Unpaid 12/31/2018	1,225.28	100,699.18	301,327.58		
% unpaid 12/31/18	0.0017%	0.1402%	0.4114%		

Tax Deed - We are in the process of In-Rem tax foreclosure on the delinquent 2015 taxes. The Notice and a list of parcels was advertised in all the county newspapers in April and is posted on the county website. The last day to redeem the 2015 taxes is June 12, 2019. The notice is also on the bulletin board by our office.